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(54) **Filling device and method for use in manufacturing of gel filled prostheses**

(57) Filling device and method for use in manufacturing of gel filled prostheses which provides fast and accurate filling of prosthesis shells without deterioration of the gel or induction of Air into the prosthesis. The filling method utilizes a dual port cannula (44) for penetrating a preslit (63) fill port (64) on a prosthesis shell (68), the cannula having one port (42) coupled through a flex-

ible tube (38) to a peristaltic pump (36) supplied with gel under pressure, and a second port (46) coupled through a flexible tube (50) to a vacuum system (56). The cannula and prosthesis shell being filled are supported on a scale (74), with the flexible tubes being disposed so that pressure variations in the tubes do not effect the scale readings. Various other novel aspects of the method and apparatus are disclosed.

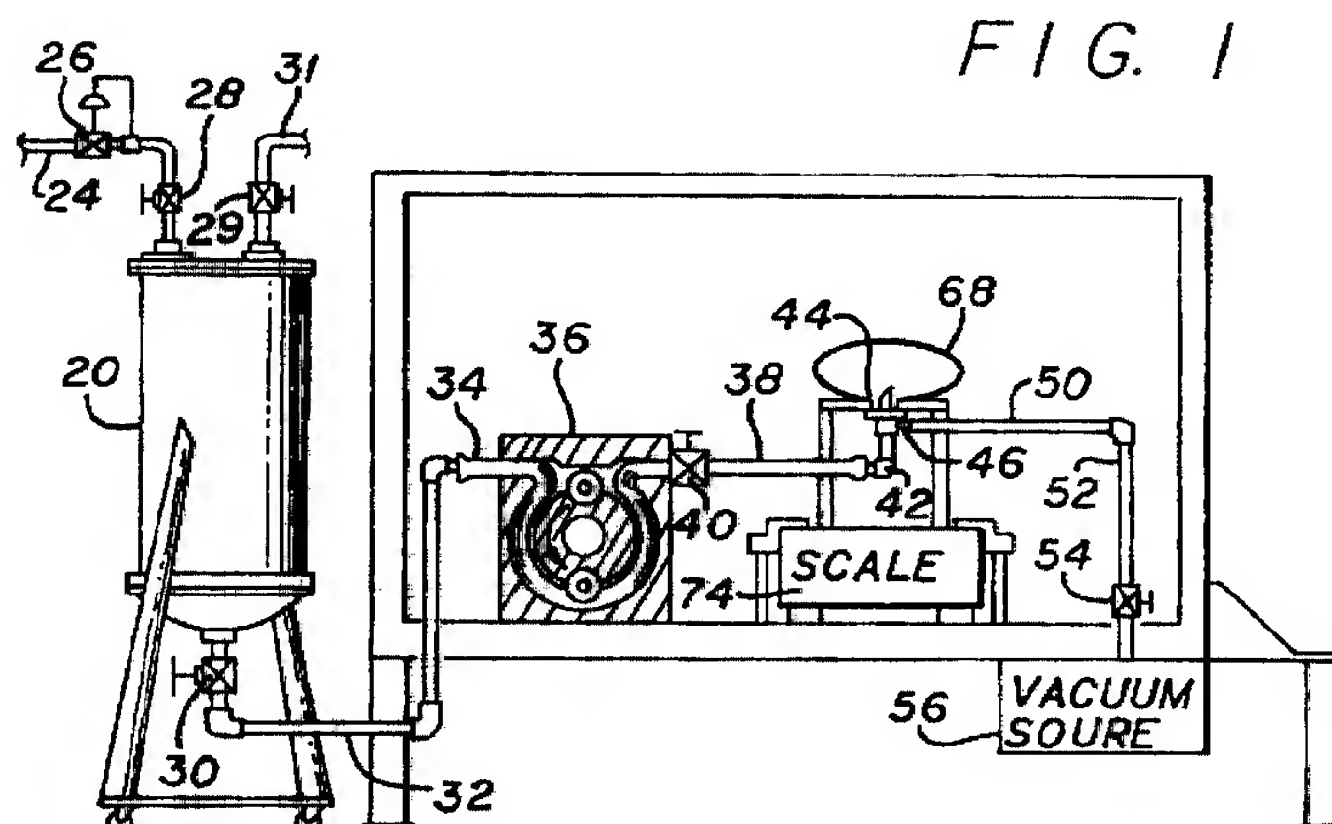


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 30 6021

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 13 June 2001	Examiner Carré, J
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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